JAN-29-04 04:58PM FROM-AKERMAN SENTERFITT 5616596313

Application No.

09/649,121

Confirmation No.

Applicant

da Palma, et al. August 28, 2000

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Filed TC/A.U.

2141

Examiner

BAYARD, Djenane M.

JAN 2 9 2004

Docket No.

6169-170

IBM Docket No.

BOC9-2000-0037

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed October 29, 2003 (Office Action), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this submission.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this submission.

(WP166098.1)

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I nereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile transmission to Commissioner for

Patents at 703-872-9306 on

Reg No. 52,667